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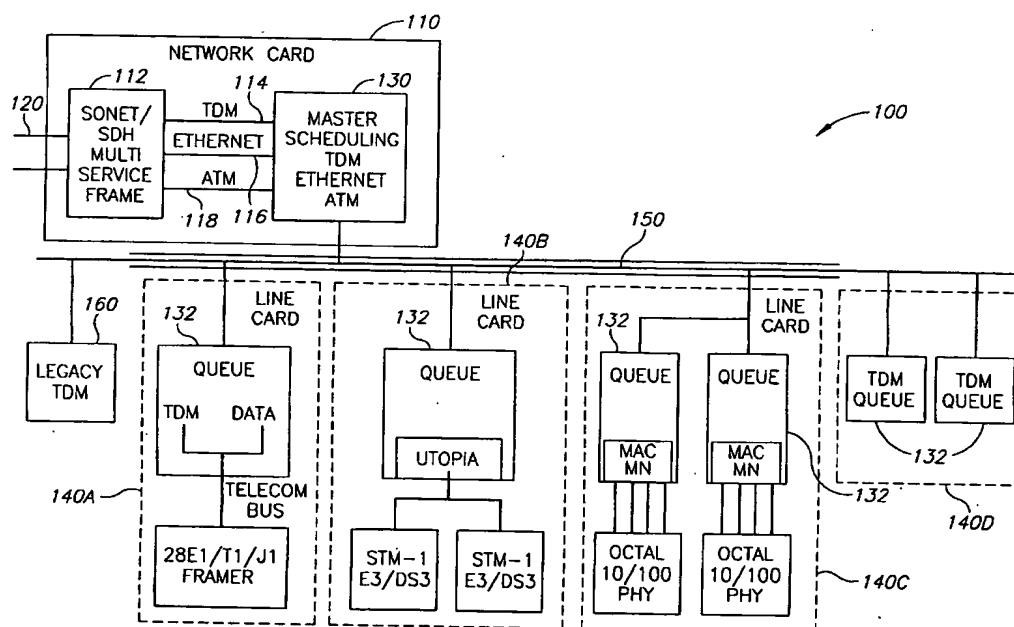
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(54) Title: MULTI-SERVICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A network card of a rack system. The card includes a bus interface adapted to connect to a backplane bus of the rack system, a data interface adapted to transmit data signals through the bus interface onto the backplane bus and a controller adapted to periodically generate bandwidth allocation signals indicating allocation of time slots of the backplane bus, and transmitting the allocation signals through the bus interface on the backplane bus, on same bus lines used by the data interface.